

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

A new title has been provided as required.

A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection and thereby expedite the allowance of this application. The filing of this Terminal Disclaimer is not intended to reflect agreement with the basis of the rejection.

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 25, 2003, Applicants had provided copies of the cited foreign patent documents with abstracts in a predecessor application properly identified in the Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, additional copies were not required to be submitted in the present continuing application. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d). Nonetheless, additional copies are being provided herewith for the Examiner's convenience. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide an updated copy of the endorsed Form PTO-1449 to confirm that the documents have been considered.

It is additionally requested that the Examiner provide a copy of endorsed Form PTO-1449 from the Supplemental

Information Disclosure Statement dated March 23, 2004 and provide formal acknowledgement of Applicants' claim of foreign priority.

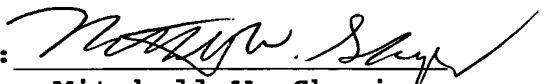
This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:sjk

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.  
1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 500  
McLean, Virginia 22102  
(703) 903-9000

By:   
Mitchell W. Shapiro  
Reg. No. 31,568

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 3, 2004.

  
Mitchell W. Shapiro